



August 26, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Office #224
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I am writing to offer my full recommendation, without reservation for the nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachel Rollins for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. The Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP) at Boston Medical Center is a critical component in the continuum of care for victims of community violence and family members of homicides, and the partnership between VIAP and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Victim Witness Advocate (VWA) Program is valuable and long standing.

VIAP is a program of the Emergency Department at Boston Medical Center, and receives almost 70% of all gunshot and stabbing victims citywide. As the first point of contact for victims, VIAP has a unique opportunity for intervention. VIAP has expertise in engaging not only the victim, but their entire family, and working collaboratively with partners through a trauma informed lens. VIAP strives to build partnerships between families, communities, and other providers to improve child, family and community wellbeing. The VWA program assigns advocates that work with survivors from the earliest moments of an investigation to provide assistance and referrals for services, assist in applying for resources and Victim Compensation, and keeps families updated as an investigation proceeds. When an arrest is made, the VWA will notify family members of court dates and accompany them in court. They also provide assistance to witnesses to homicide and other violent crimes through the Witness Protection Fund. The VWA's partner with VIAP extensively to provide wraparound services that address legal, health, psychosocial, and systemic barriers that victims of violence and their families experience. The partners utilize and promote trauma-informed services delivered across community-based settings and are linked to a network of community resources.

VIAP has had the opportunity to work with DA Rollins since 2019 to deepen and build capacity between the two programs. One of her greatest strengths is the gift of building interpersonal relationships that assists in supporting mission and growth. DA Rollins leadership, creativity, and ability to capitalize on opportunities are superior. She has built a team that is capable of managing anything that is brought before them.

A recognized leader and expert in the field, DA Rollins displays a diverse knowledge of skills that are needed to lead through change and growth, creating robust opportunities and services for victims and families, which ultimately translates into building healthy communities.

She has exceptional vision and strategy, and utilizes a participative approach when planning. She clearly understands delegating to empower staff, while utilizing skills from all team, partner, and community members.



DA Rollins is skilled at effectively working and interacting with others, regardless of their background or position, and values opinions, feedback, and suggestions from all. This leadership practice should be commended, and serves as an example to all policy makers and leaders in the Boston community that the importance of being inclusive and relying on the perspective of victims, family members, and providers actually doing the work to set policy, practice, and allocation of resources is the most important factor in addressing racial and health inequities and ultimately creating a more equitable system of care.

Our partnership is a critical component for families and survivors. The wraparound services through the partnership allows families to feel supported through a sometimes daunting and complicated process. We could not be as effective for families without this partnership, and we are grateful for the DA Rollins commitment to prioritizing and valuing the work we do together. We look forward to continuing to work together to support and strengthen the engagement of families to work towards their recovery from traumatic events.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information. I can be reached at elizabeth.dugan@bmc.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth Dugan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Elizabeth Dugan, LICSW

Clinical Director

Violence Intervention Advocacy Program

Boston Medical Center